Similarly, the Co-operative Credit Societies of Madras are also in their infant stage. In another State, the experiment was tried, but did not meet with success. The matter is important and requires legislation and caution.

The question of agricultural banks requires deep consideration, and Government will see what could be done in the matter.

66. Investigation of cocoanut blight.

Mr. K. C. Mamman Mappillay, B. A., (Kottayam) observed that, though Government had stated that it was impracticable to engage the services of an expert for the investigation of the blight of cocoanut trees in Central and North Travancore, he would press the subject once more upon their attention as the situation was serious, and if the cocoanut palm suffered materially, the State was bound to go to irreparable ruin. He therefore prayed that this matter might receive the anxious consideration of Government and that the services of a scientist might be obtained at an early date.

Mr. Luke Koshi Vydian (Karunagapalli), Mr. Kesavan Padmanabhan (Mavelikara) and Mr. N. Padmanabha Pillai and Mr. K. Kochu Thomman (Chengannur) also spoke on the same subject.

Mr. G. Idichandy, B. A., Bar-at-Law (Mavelikara) requested that the services of one or two agricultural chemists might be engaged for the purpose and asked to tour throughout the State and teach the ryot population the best methods of curing the disease. The present produce of cocoanut trees in Central Travancore was so poor that with it the cultivators were not able to pay even the tax due to Government and at this rate it was certain that the enterprising ryots of this State would soon become bankrupts.

Mr. S. Krishna Iyer, B. A., B. L., (T. I. C., Alleppey) dwelt on the necessity for the appointment of a permanent staff of agricultural scientists and entomologists.

Reply.—Government are fully alive to the importance of the subject and, as already stated, are taking measures in this direction. A student is now at Leipsig studying chemistry and on his return he will be employed to see to this among other things. It is difficult to find a proper entomologist. Government will, however, see what could be done in the matter.

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